Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 21 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 22 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 20 Jan 2023 at 10:03

Confidence: High confidence for a change over the weekend to milder conditions with cloud and some light rain and a gradual thaw of snow at most levels by early next week. However lower confidence at the timing of the milder air moving south over England. Windy at times over the coming days. Lower confidence for cloud amounts and timings of rainfall.

Headline for Saturday 21 Jan 2023: A dry, bright and sunny day, perhaps more cloud gathering later.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 21 Jan 2023

Blizzards Medium Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Clear night	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Saturday 21 Jan 2023

Weather: A clear night, some patchy cloud but a frost likely and with fresh southerly winds there will be a considerable windchill at height. A bright start on Saturday with some sunny spells for most of the day, cloud thickening later in the afternoon but remaining dry.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90%, some patchy cloud around the tops of southern fells at times.

Low cloud and visibility: Some patchy cloud above 700m around southern fells mainly in the early morning or late afternoon otherwise very good visibility will allow for great views from height.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 21 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	16/21 SE	17/23 SE	19/25 SE	21/28 S	23/31 S	22/29 S	23/30 S	22/29 S	22/29 S
600	19/26 SE	20/29 S	21/30 S	24/34 S	25/36 S	23/34 S	22/31 S	21/29 S	20/28 S
300	8/17 SE	8/18 S	8/20 S	12/24 S	13/25 S	12/23 S	11/24 S	10/23 S	9/21 S
Valley	3/12 SE	3/13 SE	5/16 SE	7/18 SE	9/19 SE	9/18 SE	9/21 SE	9/21 SE	9/21 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-9	-2/-8	-2/-8	-1/-8	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-10
600	-1/-8	-1/-7	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8
300	-1/-5	-0/-4	-1/-5	-0/-5	1/-4	1/-4	-0/-5	-1/-6	-1/-5
Valley	1/-1	1/-1	2/-1	2/-0	4/0	4/0	2/-1	2/-1	2/-1
Freezing Level*	300m	300m	300m	300m	400m	400m	300m	300m	300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A windy day in the Lake District with fresh or strong gusts at height enhancing the windchill, a little snow melt can be expected at low levels but generally still winter conditions on the fells.

Forecast for Sunday 22 Jan 2023

Weather: A cloudy night with a few snow flurries possible before dawn. A cloudy dull day in store with milder conditions beginning to push south on Sunday. Patchy light rain and drizzle will affect western fells at times and snow will begin to melt at lower levels as freezing level rises above summit level. Perhaps a few brighter spells towards eastern fell tops.

Maximum wind: Southeasterly 20mph with gusts 25-30mph easing gradually.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% scattered cloud around fell tops at times, especially for western fells.

Low cloud and visibility: Layers of scattered cloud above 500m are expected for most of the day in the west, perhaps just patchy cloud above 600m further east in the Lake District. Visibility will be hazy at times and it will see at little dull, further east visibility will generally be good. In any heavier drizzle visibility may turn poor for a short time.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 rising to 6 Celsius.
At 800m: Minus 2 Celsius rising to plus 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: 300m rising above all summits.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 20 January 2023. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20 Full report: There is a skittering of snow down to valley level, although there was a slow daytime thaw below 400m which was more noticeable below 200m. The snow depth rises with height although actual depth encountered varies considerably from little on windswept areas to deep drifts able to swallow a 70cm ice axe (although such depth is definitely the exception) with an extremely rough average of between 10 and 15cm at 900m. Where undisturbed, the snowpack is soft powder and breaking trail through the deeper drifts is arduous and energy sapping. On occasions the snowpack has developed a, generally (owing to the number of pies I've consumed) non-weight bearing crust which helps to limit the amount of spindrift being blown about on windier days compared with the calm experienced today. The glorious weather this week has encouraged walkers out and this has resulted in compacted snow on popular routes. There was ice on paths at all levels; however, the majority and more problematic of which was often located at lower elevations along drainage lines where there has been a daytime thaw and overnight freeze. Harder snow was especially located on the summit plateau. Windslab (unstable snow) was evident on steep slopes in several directions owing to changes in previous wind directions.With these changes in wind direction, cornices (snow overhangs) can exist above many steep aspects but especially those facing north and east – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. These had footprints running along the edge far, far too close to the drop. Just because cornice collapses under people's weight are thankfully rare in the UK does not mean that they cannot happen in the Lakes, so please keep off any such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. With a summit temperature around midday of minus 2 and windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) of minus 7 degrees C, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. Low cloud when combined with deep snow obscuring ground features (including steep drops) necessitates excellent navigational skills. Crampons and ice axe (plus experience in winter mountaineering) are essential for those attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes (such as the Helvellyn edges). Microspikes and trekking poles are strongly recommended for any walkers heading above the snowline owing to the amount of ice and compacted snow on paths. Goggles are a useful addition to the rucksack to lessen the sting of windblown spindrift. Climbers: the snowpack is generally very soft so please check that routes are in condition before attempting them to avoid damage to rare alpine habitats. Please see the BMC "White Guide" for details and have a look at the Helvellyn and Great End online temperature gauges. Temperature: minus 1.8 C, Maximum wind speed 10.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 7.4 C, Average wind speed: 8.1 mph
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